(c) Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate in the country (87).

(d) The measures being implemented in the country to bring down the infant mortality rate in the country are:

i. National ARI Control Programme

ii. National Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme

iii. Universal Immunization Programme

iv. Provision of essential newborn care

v. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.

National Health Insurance Scheme

941. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce National Health Insurance Scheme across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the infrastructure is available to implement the scheme across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) methodology evolved to meet the annual expenditure over the scheme; and

(f) by when the scheme is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Granting accreditation to hospitals

942. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a prelude to boost medical tourism in the country,